

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification

Please insert the following new paragraph on page 6 immediately following line 10 and before line 11.

It is also preferable that each of the alkyl groups independently contains not more than 10 carbon atoms in the carbon chain (excluding optional substituents if present).

Please replace the paragraph on p. 7, lines 8-16 with the following amended paragraph.

Suitable catalysts include Deloxan acid catalysts (Ex. Degussa-Hüls AG), zeolites, metal oxides, molecular sieves, clays, sulfonic acid derivatives, or other equivalent heterogeneous sources of a Brønsted acid (e.g. Amberlyst resin). The catalyst is ideally supported on an inert carrier. It is also preferable that when the catalyst is supported on an inert carrier the catalyst includes a promoter. Preferably the catalyst contains sulfonic acid groups, and more preferably the catalyst is a Deloxan catalyst or an equivalent thereof.